

**DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 19, 2006**

Members Present: Ennis, Carroll, Endres, Harden, Kitson, Lank, Lardizzone, Magner, Newstadt, Spitzfaden, Thompson, Wasson and Webb

Members Excused: Morris and Timberman

Staff Present: Reid, Quinlan, Dunning, and Merson

Guests: Eric Young (Vet Center Outreach), Ed Moczulski (LP Lo-DEL), Al Carter (SOS), Ron Sarg (MOAA), Adam Fox (DAV), Richard Bundy (Military Coalition), Wilmer Schott and Don Miller

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to our Nations Flag.

Vice-Chairman Ennis opened the meeting by discussing the Veterans Home Dedication and thanked everyone involved. He had the opportunity to go before the Milford Town Council and took the opportunity to thank those folks for their participation as well.

Mr. Bundy spoke about getting veterans in the State of Delaware registered to vote and involved in voting. He spoke about the purpose of the Military Coalition and the impact veterans could have on the government if they band together.

MOTION BY WASSON TO ACCEPT NOVEMBER COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES, SECONDED BY SPITZFADEN, MOTION CARRIED.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Commissioner Newstadt reported that there will be a Family Advisory Cemetery Committee (FACC) meeting at the Southern Cemetery on Wednesday, February 21, 2007, 6:00 PM.

COMMEMORATIVE AFFAIRS

No report.

FINANCE AND LOGISTICS

No report.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Commissioner Carroll reported that the balance in the Veterans Home Fund as of December 19, 2007, was \$51,129 and the balance in the Friends of the Delaware Veterans Home was \$462,114. There were checks in the amount of \$5,980 received this week.

Mr. Reid thanked everyone for the outstanding job at the Veterans Home Dedication and introduced Lois Quinlan, the new Assistant Veterans Home Administrator. Mr. Reid reported on other positions that have been filled, the ones in the process of being filled, and future positions that will be advertised. He reported that they have 141 individuals currently on the waiting list for the Veterans Home. There was discussion about the application process. Mr. Reid reported that the Milford Elks Lodge donated \$2,000 to the Veterans Home and he anticipates another \$2,000 donation from the Dover Elks Lodge. Mr. Reid provided two complete copies of the Veterans Home Operations Manuals. He introduced Vera Merson, Resident Nurse Assessment Coordinator III, who was responsible for the oversight of the manuals. There was discussion about the expectations for the monies that have been donated and who is overseeing those accounts. It was agreed that a subcommittee would be formed to develop a list of donation items.

PERSONNEL

Commissioner Lardizzone reported that the individual, who was hired for the Conservation Tech II position at the Northern Cemetery, declined the position, as well as the 2nd and 3rd individuals on the cert list. We are waiting to hear back from the 4th individual. If he declines the offer, we will have to re-advertise the position.

MONUMENTS & MEMORIALS

No report.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

No report.

BY-LAWS

Vice-Chairman Ennis reported that the By-Laws Committee met. He discussed their accomplishments and the issues that need to be addressed.

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS

Spitzfaden (MOAA) – The Dover Chapter will be conducting a fundraiser to support Kent Co. Junior ROTC programs. The fundraiser will be held at the Dover UNO Bar and Grill on February 15, 2007, from 11:00 AM to 9:00 PM, and the Chapter will get 20% of your tab.

Wasson (DELVETS) – They had a Christmas dinner dance and it went very well.

Harden (WAVES) – They had their Christmas luncheon on December 19, 2006, where she handed out Veterans Home packets. She also reported that she is working on the “Salute to Hospitalized Veterans”.

Webb (VVA) – Their organization was upset that none of the Commissioners, other than himself, attended the funeral service for the recent Delaware soldier that was killed in Iraq.

Kitson (VFW) – The Military Order of the Cooties had their VA Hospital Christmas party and there were about 25 members who attended.

Ennis (KWVA) – They had their Executive Council meeting and there was an overall general opinion that there was a lack of recognition for the veterans at the Veterans Home Dedication, discussion followed. He also wanted to mention that on Veterans Day at the bridge, Biden spoke about all the other wars but never mentioned the Korean War.

Thompson (MCL) – The detachments in Kent and Sussex Counties have collected approximately 400 almost new books for the Veterans Home. The “Toys for Tots” Program is wrapping up and he will have a final report in January.

Carroll (MOPH) – There was a National Purple Heart Hall of Honor built in Vails Gate, NY, which was dedicated on December 10, 2006. They have asked that those who have received the Purple Heart share their stories, photos and video tapes for their library. Information may be sent to: National Purple Heart Hall of Honor, PO Box 207, Vails Gate, NY 12584. MOPH National will march on Capitol Hill, Washington, DC, during February 5-9, 2007.

Magner (AMVETS) – They collected 100 turkeys for their Turkey Drive and it went well. The Ancient Order of the Hibernians collected \$1,510 for the Delaware Guard and Reserve Family Emergency Assistance Fund.

Lank (MOWW) – He thought Secretary of State Harriet Smith Windsor did a very good job as MC for the Veterans Home Dedication.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Young thanked the Commission for their involvement in the Air National Guard flyover for the Veterans Home Dedication. He also provided Vet Center pamphlets.

ITEMS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORGANIZATION

Commissioner Newstadt passed out a copy of a New Jersey veterans guide pamphlet. There was discussion about the Veterans Home Operations Manuals. The Commission holiday luncheon will be held following the January meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: **JANUARY 23, 2007 (11:00 AM) - Holiday Luncheon (12:00 NOON)**

LOCATION: **Robbins Bldg, 802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100
Dover, DE**

ADJOURNED